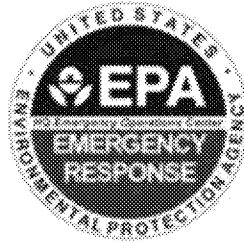


From: Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/4/2019 12:29:16 AM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #10

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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #10

PORT NECHES, TX, NRC#1264987

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of 12/03/2019 at 7:30 PM

Overview: Early in the morning on November 27, the National Response Center received a report about an explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX. The facility is regulated under the Risk Management Program. At approximately 1400 CST on November 27, a secondary explosion occurred. Residents within a four-mile radius of the facility were ordered to evacuate. At 1000 hours on November 29, the Jefferson County judge rescinded the mandatory evacuation. One fire is still burning in the process area. TPC will continue to provide water suppression to the process area until the fire extinguishes itself.

Assessment teams have identified asbestos containing material to the northeast of the facility, up to seven miles away. TCP is initiating modeling to help identify potential impact areas. Teams are responding to reports and recovering material as identified.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Port Neches-Groves Independent School District re-opened on December 3. Air monitoring teams from CTEH, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and EPA have coordinated to assure continuous air monitoring in the area of the schools. Unified Command is establishing a tiered response effort for the schools neighboring the facility in the event butadiene is detected above the action level. This plan for tiered monitoring will be submitted to EPA & TCEQ for approval.

Unified Command received a report of three dead birds on December 2. TPC has contacted Wildlife Response Services to respond to the incident. A Wildlife Hotline has been established for the incident and distributed to response personnel. No reports of impacted wildlife were received on December 3.

EPA Actions: EPA is serving as the lead federal agency for response efforts. As of 1500, December 3, EPA is deploying 3 personnel and 8 contractors to Port Neches, and 3 EPA personnel 7 contractors are supporting the response remotely. A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued assessments on December 3 along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal.

EPA is collecting five water samples on the afternoon of December 3 in the affected canal up to the Neches River and one water sample upstream of the incident. The EPA water samples will be analyzed for VOCs, SVOCs, Oil and Grease, Glycols, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, and Total Organic Carbon. The water samples will also be analyzed for three specific PFAS compounds that are predominantly a part of aqueous film-forming foam.

EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) conducted a fly-over of the site on the morning of December 3 and reported no detections.

A Story Map has been created for the incident and is public at the <https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire> website.

Media Interest: Medium

Media Links:

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/power-city/third-tower-falls-at-tpc-plant-in-port-neches-6-days-after-initial-explosion/502-ba255380-9f1e-4f0a-8cd9-e83c9da4e0c4>

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/power-city/update-more-information-on-ruptured-tanks-materials-that-caused-tpc-explosion/502-f96757dc-135c-48cc-b416-c9cac29f6644>

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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